

AMENDMENT OF SOLICITATION/MODIFICATION OF CONTRACT		1. CONTRACT ID CODE	PAGE 1 OF 3
2. AMENDMENT/MODIFICATION NO. A0001	3. EFFECTIVE DATE May 24, 2005	4. REQUISITION/PURCHASE REQ. NO. N/A	5. PROJECT NO. (If applicable)
6. ISSUED BY U.S. DOT/RITA/Volpe Center 55 Broadway Cambridge MA 02142		7. ADMINISTERED BY (If other than Item 6)	
CODE		CODE	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 9A. AMENDMENT OF SOLICITATION NO. DTRS57-05-R-20106 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 9B. DATED (SEE ITEM 11) 4/25/2005 10A. MODIFICATION OF CONTRACT/ORDER NO. 10B. DATED (SEE ITEM 13)	
CODE	FACILITY CODE		

11. THIS ITEM ONLY APPLIES TO AMENDMENTS OF SOLICITATIONS

☒ The above numbered solicitation is amended as set forth in Item 14. The hour and date specified for receipt of Offers ☒ is extended, ☐ is not extended.

Offers must acknowledge receipt of this amendment prior to the hour and date specified in the solicitation or as amended, by one of the following methods: (a) By completing Items 8 and 15, and returning one (1) copy of the amendment; (b) By acknowledging receipt of this amendment on each copy of the offer submitted; or (c) By separate letter or telegram which includes a reference to the solicitation and amendment numbers. FAILURE OF YOUR ACKNOWLEDGMENT TO BE RECEIVED AT THE PLACE DESIGNATED FOR THE RECEIPT OF OFFERS PRIOR TO THE HOUR AND DATA SPECIFIED MAY RESULT IN REJECTION OF YOUR OFFER. If by virtue of this amendment you desire to change an offer already submitted, such change may be made by telegram or letter, provided each telegram or letter makes reference to the solicitation and this amendment, and is received prior to the opening hour and data specified.

12. ACCOUNTING AND APPROPRIATION DATA (If required)

13. THIS ITEM APPLIES ONLY TO MODIFICATIONS OF CONTRACTS/ORDERS, IT MODIFIES THE CONTRACT/ORDER NO. AS DESCRIBED IN ITEM 14.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	A. THIS CHANGE ORDER IS ISSUED PURSUANT TO: (Specify authority) THE CHANGES SET FORTH IN ITEM 14 ARE MADE IN THE CONTRACT ORDER NO. IN ITEM 10A.
	B. THE ABOVE NUMBERED CONTRACT/ORDER IS MODIFIED TO REFLECT THE ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES (such as changes in paying office, appropriation date, etc.) SET FORTH IN ITEM 14, PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY OF FAR 43.103(b).
	C. THIS SUPPLEMENTAL AGREEMENT IS ENTERED INTO PURSUANT TO AUTHORITY OF:
	D. OTHER Specify type of modification and authority)

E. IMPORTANT: Contractor ____ is not, ____ is required to sign this document and return ____ copies to the issuing office.

14. DESCRIPTION OF AMENDMENT/MODIFICATION (Organized by UCF section headings, including solicitation/contract subject matter where feasible.)

This amendment is issued to make revisions to the subject solicitation; to respond to questions about the solicitation submitted prior to, during, and subsequent to the preproposal conference held for this acquisition at the Volpe Center on May 10, 2005; and to provide the attendee list for that conference; and to extend the time and date for submission of proposals, as follows:

Except as provided herein, all terms and conditions of the document referenced in Item 9A or 10A, as heretofore changed, remains unchanged and in full force and effect.

15A. NAME AND TITLE OF SIGNER (Type or print)		16A. NAME AND TITLE OF CONTRACTING OFFICER (Type or print) MICHAEL J. LEARY CONTRACTING OFFICER	
15B. CONTRACTOR/OFFEROR	15C. DATE SIGNED	16B. UNITED STATES OF AMERICA BY (Signature of Contracting Officer)	16C. DATE SIGNED
(Signature of person authorized to sign)			

A. The subject solicitation is hereby revised as follows:

- 1.) Section C.3.A.4, Contract Cost Control is changed on page 12 of the solicitation, under the heading of Deliverables, to require that a Contract Management and Administration Job Order Plan must also be provided at least 20 calendar days before the end of contract transition, in addition to the current requirement for this plan to be submitted at least 20 calendar days prior to the beginning of each fiscal year. As a result of this change, Section F.9, Delivery Schedules is also revised for item 7 to require delivery within 20 calendar days before the end of contract transition, as well as within 20 calendar days prior to the beginning of each fiscal year.
- 2.) Section C.5, Labor Category Definitions and Personnel Qualifications is changed on pages 32 and 35 for the IS Junior Analyst to establish an experience only equivalency of five (5) years of experience as the applicable equivalency for this category as shown in the table on page 35 of the solicitation.
- 3.) Section L.5.B.1.d, Past Performance on page 80 of the solicitation is revised to add the following language to the end of the second full paragraph on that page:

The Government will accept the submission of past performance reports by mail, fax, or e-mail. Offerors shall ensure that their past performance reports are **clearly marked and identifiable**, and submit the reports to the Contract Specialist, Donna Brickley, RTV-6D2, at:

DOT/RITA/Volpe National Transportation Systems Center
Attn: Donna Brickley, RTV-6D2
Ref: DTRT57-05-R-20106
55 Broadway
Cambridge, MA 02142-1093
Fax: (617)494-3024
E-Mail: Brickley@volpe.dot.gov

- 4.) Section L.6.C.1.j, Government-Estimated Labor Rates on page 90 of the solicitation is revised to add the following sentence to the end of the paragraph:

If an offeror's practice is to calculate an hourly labor rate using hours significantly less than the 2,080 hour basis which yields a rate including paid absence, the Offeror may restate the Government-provided labor rates on this basis provided that a full explanation including supporting details and methodology is included with this portion of the proposal.

- 5.) The instructions for completion of the schedules for calculation of costs for CLIN 0001, Transition, and CLIN 0002, Contract Management and Administration, on pages 98 and 102 respectively, are changed to establish the basis for computation of Direct Labor to be 2,080 hours in place of the 2,087 hours originally shown. Also, for the calculation of labor costs shown for CLIN 0003 in Schedule 5B on page 105, change the asterisked reference for Hourly Labor Rate which reads “*Based on salary divided by 2,087 hours” to read “*Based on salary divided by 2,080 hours”; the instructions on page 107 under paragraph k. Direct Labor provide all the additional information required to calculate these labor costs.

- 6.) FAR 52.237-10, Identification of Uncompensated Overtime (OCT 1997), is hereby incorporated by reference in Section L.1. of the solicitation.
- B. A version of the slide presentation provided at the preproposal conference which is Section 508 compliant has been posted on the Volpe Center website at the following address:
http://www.volpe.dot.gov/procure/05r20106/TPP_05r20106.ppt
- C. A copy of the questions submitted prior to the preproposal conference and answers provided to those questions in the conference information packet is included as Attachment 1 to this amendment.
- D. A list of those attending the preproposal conference is included as Attachment 2 to this amendment.
- E. A copy of the other questions submitted in connection with this solicitation and the answers to those questions is included as Attachment 3 to this amendment. In addition, there are three outstanding questions for which responses will be provided as soon as possible.
- F. **THE TIME AND DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS IS HEREBY EXTENDED UNTIL 3:00 P.M. LOCAL TIME ON JUNE 23, 2005.**

**QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS SUBSEQUENT TO
THE PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE
FOR DTRT57-05-R-20106**

SECTION B

1. Reference: Pg. 5, B.1 SUPPLIES/SERVICES AND PRICES – IDIQ

“It is anticipated (but not guaranteed) that individual Task Orders will be issued at the beginning of each contract year for a full year’s performance of work required under CLIN 0002 and 0003.”

Clarification: In this paragraph, the language refers to Task Orders being issued at the beginning of each contract year, whereas in other parts of the RFP (p. 12 and p. 39) it refers to activities that occur at the beginning of each fiscal year. Are these statements consistent since the contract starts in the middle of a fiscal year?

RESPONSE: The solicitation is being amended to change the applicable language on pages 12 and 39 to add the requirement that a Contract Management and Administration Job Order Plan must be submitted at least 20 calendar days before the end of contract transition, as well as the current requirement for this plan at least 20 calendar days prior to the beginning of each fiscal year. Otherwise, the wording of section B.1 is consistent with that in the referenced sections on pages 12 and 39.

SECTION C

1. Reference: C.3.A.2, page 10

Question: What is the current project/task order planning and estimation tool being used by the incumbent? Who owns the tool – the contractor or Volpe Center? Will it be made available to the new contractor?

RESPONSE: The contractor is expected to provide, maintain and operate its own project management system which must be compatible with corresponding Government systems. The solicitation does not establish any requirement that the contractor use any particular type of project management system. As for any current project/task order planning and estimation tool being used by the incumbent contractor, any request for that information would have to be referred to that organization.

2. Reference: Jr. IS Analyst Qualifications, stated on page 32 of the above-referenced RFP, requirement for Bachelor's degree (or equivalent*)."'

Question: Would Volpe please provide equivalency information for this position. It is not currently included in the equivalency table.

RESPONSE: The solicitation is being amended to establish an experience only equivalency of five (5) years for the IS Junior Analyst labor category. This change will be shown in the equivalency table provided in section C.5 of the solicitation.

3. Reference: Section C, Paragraph C.3.A.4, Cost Control, Page 12, and Section L, Paragraph L.6.C.1i, Staffing Requirements, Page 83.

The second paragraph of C.3.A.4 states the contractor will be provided one or more accounts for activities covered by Section C.4 that are not appropriately charged as direct project labor.

Clarification: Are offerors required to estimate and price these activities? If so, where should this estimate be provided in the Cost/Business Proposal?

RESPONSE: Offerors are not required to estimate and price such activities as part of their proposal submission. This items are post-award contract administration functions.

SECTION H

1. Reference: page 52, H.18 ISSUANCE OF TASK ORDERS

“The CO will issue such directions to the contractor in the form of Task Orders. Prior to issuance of any Task Order, the CO will discuss with the contractor the work to be performed, the timing thereof, and will negotiate the estimated cost thereof.”

AND Pg. 111, J.3.C.1 JOB ORDER SYSTEM PROCEDURES

THE JOB ORDER SYSTEM

Initiation of a Task

Question: For the work that the contractor performs (Step 1, Initiation of a Task) in the discussions with the CO and proposal preparation prior to the issuance of the Task Order, where does this effort get charged? Is it chargeable to CLIN 0002 or CLIN 0003?

RESPONSE: Prior to issuance of a Task Order, there is no mechanism for charging such proposal preparation costs. After issuance of the appropriate Task Order, costs for preparation of the Task Orders and subsequent Job Orders as applicable will be chargeable in accordance with the contractor’s standard acceptable accounting practices.

SECTION I

1. Reference: Section I.1.I, page 57; Section J.8, pages 139-163

Question: Will accountability to DCMAO for Installation Provided Government Property remain with the Volpe Property Administrator? If so, then the offeror would not require “an approved property system,” as required under FAR 52.245-1, since the system of record would be the Volpe Property System that is already approved. Please clarify.

RESPONSE: First, there is no mention of, or expectation of involvement by, DCMA in the administration of Government furnished property under this contract. Further, the solicitation clause FAR 52.245-1, Property Records, does not require or mention “an approved property system”. However, this clause does establish that the Government shall maintain the official property records for Government furnished property for this acquisition.

SECTION L

1. Reference: L.5.B.1.d., page 80

Question: The requirement states that Offerors are “responsible for making all reasonable efforts to ensure that a completed evaluation report is provided for each of the cited contracts by no later than the due date for receipt of proposals.” Will the Government accept completed evaluation reports by fax?

RESPONSE: The Government will accept the submission of past performance reports by mail, fax, or e-mail. Offerors shall ensure that their past performance reports are clearly marked and identifiable, and submit the reports to the Contract Specialist, Donna Brickley, RTV-6D2, at:

DOT/RITA/Volpe National Transportation Systems Center
Attn: Donna Brickley, RTV-6D2
Ref: DTRT57-05-R-20106
55 Broadway
Cambridge, MA 02142-1093
Fax: (617)494-3024
E-Mail: Brickley@volpe.dot.gov

2. Reference: Schedule 3 (CLIN 0001), Page 98

Question: Why is 2,087 being used as the billing year? If this is in conflict with standard accounting practice, may we use the number our standard accounting uses for a standard manyear?

RESPONSE: Please note that the solicitation is being amended to show 2,080 hours rather than 2,087 hours as the basis for offerors to develop proposed labor costs for CLINs 0001 and 0002. Offerors also need to follow the instructions in paragraph k., Direct Labor on page 107 of the solicitation for the development of proposed labor costs for CLIN 0003. Finally, FAR clause 52.237-10, Identification of Uncompensated Overtime (Oct 1997) is also being incorporated into the solicitation by amendment. If an offeror proposes uncompensated overtime for CLIN 0002 labor costs, the proposal must include the information required by that FAR provision.

3. Reference: Pages 108 and 90

Question: How can both proposed indirect ceiling rates be composite (ref. pg. 108) and the “strongly encouraged” indirect ceilings be stipulated as being composite? Can you define the context of composite rates mentioned on page 90?

RESPONSE: According to the language on page 90 of the solicitation, composite indirect ceilings are NOT allowable.

4. Question: If our firm’s basis for calculating direct labor is not 2,087 hours, can we still use the Government’s estimated labor rates? Should we adjust the Government’s estimated labor rates to reflect our annual basis if it is different?

RESPONSE: If an offeror’s practice is to calculate an hourly labor rate using hours significantly less than the 2,080 hour basis which yields a rate including paid absence, the Offeror may restate the Government-provided labor rates on this basis provided that a full explanation including supporting details and methodology is included with this portion of the proposal.

5. Question: Is it realistic to assume 2,087 hours because of holidays, vacation, sick, personal time? To calculate the number of people required, should not the 396,500 hours be divided by 1,880 hours?

RESPONSE: Please note the change to 2,080 hours being made by amendment to this solicitation. The CLIN 0003 level of effort in section B.2 is the Government’s estimate of required labor resources, and those hours are direct, productive hours only. This estimate is utilized to establish a uniform basis on which offers can be evaluated for cost realism purposes, excluding uncompensated overtime. The hours do not serve to establish a requirement for the number of people offerors must propose for this solicitation.

6. Reference: Section L.5.B.1.e and L.5.B.1.f pg 83 and the Government's answer to Section L Question 7 provided at the Bidder's Conference on 5/3/05.

Question: The RFP requires that Offerors submit resumes of 22 personnel to demonstrate their ability to provide additional staff in order to fully perform all required tasks on day one of the new contract. Your answer to question #7 (provided at the Bidder's Conference) seems to allow use of resumes of incumbent personnel to meet this requirement. However, allowing use of resumes of incumbent personnel does not demonstrate the ability to provide additional (new) staff. It is recommended that the RFP be amended to require that all Offerors, including the incumbent, be required to provide 22 non-incumbent resumes to enable the Government to assess each Offerors' ability to provide additional (new) staff on day one of the new contract.

RESPONSE: This recommendation is not acceptable. The solicitation requirements remain unchanged in this regard.

7. Reference Section L.4.I (Text): This reference provides that 11 x 17" foldout pages may be used for diagrams, charts or graphic material that will count as one page.

Question: Provided that the offeror maintains the required 8-point proportional size limitation, may more than one diagram/chart/graphic be placed on a fold-out page?

RESPONSE: More than one diagram/chart/graphic may be placed on a fold-out page in this manner.

8. Reference: Solicitation Clause L.6.2 states the following:

"Subcontractors with estimated costs in excess of \$500,000 must follow the same proposal preparation instructions and complete the same schedules as the prime contractor except for the sections that clearly have no applicability to a subcontractor (i.e., a "Subcontracting Plan"). The subcontractor shall meet the same requirements for the Cost/Business Proposal as the prime contractor"

Question: Please confirm that in the case of a subcontractor with estimated costs in excess of \$500,000 and a proposed subcontract type other than cost-reimbursement, a 'similar' level of cost/price detail shall be provided as appropriate for the proposed subcontract type.

RESPONSE: The type of subcontract proposed has no effect on the kind of information and level of detail required by the solicitation for an offeror's Cost/Business Proposal.

GENERAL QUESTIONS:

1. Please clarify the terms of task order, project and job order and their interrelationship?

RESPONSE: Please refer to FAR Subpart 16.5, Indefinite Delivery Contracts for a description of task order contracts. Once an appropriate task order has been issued under the basic TRIPS contract, Job Orders (for CLIN 0002 or CLIN 0003) will be the means by which specific work under the respective task order will be performed by the contractor. In the case of CLIN 0003 requirements, these Job Orders will involve efforts for projects assigned to the Volpe Center by our various Government sponsors. Please refer to solicitation section C.3.B.2, Job Order Initiation and Control, and to solicitation attachment J.3, Job Order System Procedures for further details regarding Job Orders under this proposed contract.

2. What other enterprise project management systems are deployed at Volpe (besides UAS)?

RESPONSE: The User Accountability System (UAS) is not an enterprise management system. It is an automated information system that supports the Volpe Center's onsite technical support contracts. The Volpe Center itself is moving toward adoption of an enterprise project management system at this time. Although the Center has not made a firm commitment to it, at present, the Microsoft Enterprise Project Management System is in the validation phase.

3. Will base plus award fee bids be acceptable?

RESPONSE: The proposed cost-plus-award-fee contract may include a base fee amount and an award fee amount as described in Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) 16.405-2(a).

4. Regarding efforts to promote new and follow-on business with Volpe customers, to what extent does Volpe want its industry partner to promote Volpe as a service provider to DOT and others?

RESPONSE: The Volpe Center is responsible for its own business development. The solicitation does not address any requirement for the contractor to perform this function.

5. For proposing against task orders or for invoicing purposes, can we use our established workyear if different from 2,087?

RESPONSE: These matters of task order proposal and invoicing procedures would be a matter for post-award discussion. Also, please note the solicitation amendment changing 2,087 hour basis to a 2,080 hour basis for purposes of proposal submission.

6. Will on-site space at Volpe be provided during the transition phase?

RESPONSE: On-site space at Volpe will be provided during the transition phase of the contract. However, there are no further specific details currently available concerning such space.

7. The Bidders Conference presentation referred to "goals" for small business sub-contracting, but then said that these are "requirements". So are these percentages requirements of the bids on the TRIPS opportunity, or are they just goals? Will a bid be deemed non-compliant if it does not meet all these diversity requirements?

RESPONSE: The basis for determining the acceptability of any Small Business Subcontracting Plan required by solicitation clause FAR 52.219-9 is provided in FAR 19.705-4, Reviewing the subcontracting plan.

8. Can you distribute a list of participants at the bidders conference?

RESPONSE: A list of attendees at the preproposal conference is being provided with the first amendment to the solicitation. The Government representatives who spoke at the conference are identified in the preproposal conference presentation document which will be posted shortly to the Volpe Acquisition website for this solicitation.

9. Please advise if the Government is suggesting a maximum Award Fee.

RESPONSE: The solicitation does not include any language relative to the establishment of a maximum Award Fee for this acquisition.

10. Please confirm that the Government will rely on contractors with approved purchasing systems to determine the appropriate subcontract types based on the anticipated subcontractors roles, responsibilities, and procurement systems.

RESPONSE: The solicitation clause FAR 52.244-2, Subcontracts, with its Alternate II on page 57 in Section I of the solicitation establishes the requirements for administration of subcontracts. The Government will adhere to the requirements of this clause in connection with subcontracts to be utilized under the TRIPS contracts, including the appropriate procedures associated with the contractor having an approved purchasing system.

11. Will current Government-furnished equipment be provided on the Volpe complex prior to the May 1, 2006 execution date? This could affect the ability of a non-incumbent awardee to have the necessary equipment (servers, networks, etc.) ready for use on May 1st.

RESPONSE: The Government furnished property under this contract will only be available for use under full contract performance following contract transition. Although this could occur earlier than May 1, 2006, such equipment will not be provided before the end of transition.

12. Reference: RFP Section K.1 - Submission of Online Representations and Certifications (ORCA). If an offeror is unable to enter its Representations and Certifications in the ORCA, can completed Representations and Certifications as set forth in Appendix B of the ORCA be provided with this individual proposal?

RESPONSE: It is not clear that the approach described in this question for providing Annual Representations and Certifications would be acceptable in accordance with the terms of the solicitation provision K.1, FAR 52.204-8.

<p align="center">ATTENDEE LIST</p> <p align="center">PREPROPOSAL CONFERENCE</p> <p align="center">FOR DTRT57-05-R-20106</p> <p align="center">10-May-05</p>	
ATTENDEE	COMPANY
Thomas Hodges	Anteon Corporation
Thomas Hodges	Anteon Corporation
Charles Sippel	Anteon Corporation
Alan Falk	Booz Allen Hamilton
Gay Porter	CACI
Linda Cramer	Chenega Advanced Solutions & Engineering, LLC
Steve Kelley	Chenega Advanced Solutions & Engineering, LLC
Rob DeMara	Chenega Advanced Solutions & Engineering, LLC
Walt Wise	Client Network Services, Inc.
Vivek Gore	Client Network Services, Inc.
Adnan Ahmed	Client Network Services, Inc.
Jim Cutler	CNA
Alan Montgomery	Computer Sciences Corp.
Fred Gill	Computer Sciences Corp.
Stephen G. Clark	Computer Sciences Corp.
David Turnbull	COMputing TechnologieS, Inc.
Manual Sosa, Jr.	COMputing TechnologieS, Inc.
Robert Kiah	COMputing TechnologieS, Inc.
Robert Glancy	Dynamics Research Corp.
Melvin Greenberg	Dynamics Research Corp.
Richard Basque	Dynamics Research Corp.
Michael McBrierty	EGI
Peggy Murphy	EGI
Chris Stockwell	Eliassen Group
Melvin Scott	General Dynamics
Dave Turner	General Dynamics
Frank Hassler	General Dynamics
Jeff McDermott	General Dynamics
Matt vonWahlde	Geonetics
Tom Janes	Geonetics
Len Kaplan	Government Micro Resources, Inc.
Dan Sullivan	Government Micro Resources, Inc.
Jerry Smiley	IBM
Kevin Thomas	IBM
David C. Clark	IBM
Anupam Sachdev	Indus Corp.
Quincy C. Hobbs	L3, Ilex Systems, Inc.

DTRS57-05-R-20106
 AMENDMENT A0001
 ATTACHMENT #2

Lily Lee	LABBLEE Corp.
Bernie Lee	LABBLEE Corp.
Ed Roman	LABBLEE Corp.
Brian Bell	Living Water Image & Purification Services, L.L.C.
Gaspere Aluzzo	Mainstay Enterprises
Norm Couture	NGIT
Tom Portlock	Odyssey Systems Consulting
Pat Thomas-Fuller	P3I, Inc.
Cathy Dowling	P3I, Inc.
Michael Hardy	Penobscot Bay Media
Alan Butler	Penobscot Bay Media
Vik Mehta	Pipeline Management
Kelly Courtney	Pipeline Management
Tor Opsahl	QSS Group, Inc.
Bert Rogers	Quantech
John Dryer	Quantech
Jackie Rybacki	Raytheon
Ritchie Gruber	Raytheon
James Tremblay	RLM Software
Frank Germain	Safety Net Solutions, Inc.
Ross Miller	Safety Net Solutions, Inc.
Richard Brody	Science Applications International Corp.
Steve Schofield	Science Applications International Corp.
Judith Bottomley	Science Applications International Corp.
Tricia Iveson	SI International, Inc.
Francis Moody	SI International, Inc.
Cheryl Quince	Titan Corp.
Karen Palmer	Titan Corp.
Mike Carney	Titan Corp.

Solicitation No. DTRT57-05-R-20106

Solicitation Questions & Answers

SECTION B

1. What is the labor estimate for CLIN 0002, Contract Management and Administration?

ANSWER: This is a performance-based line item; it is the responsibility of the Offeror to propose the manner in which this item will be accomplished, including the appropriate types and quantities of labor required.

2. Are the staff for CLIN 0003 to be considered committed on a full time basis, and are their complete costs billed to that CLIN? Or do they bill only for time performed against an active project?

ANSWER: As stated in clause B.1 in the second paragraph, “It is anticipated (but not guaranteed) that individual TOs will be issued at the beginning of each contract year for a full year’s performance of work required under CLIN 0002 and 0003.” The assumption here would be that the full level of effort for CLIN 0003 would be the basis for issuance of the Task Order, and that this level of effort would be utilized for the entire year. The staff providing this level of effort would need to be continuously available to perform work on individual Job Orders which would subsequently be issued to utilize this level of effort during the year. Therefore, this available staff would be chargeable to the Task Order on a continual basis.

3. CLIN 0004 is described in the same manner as CLIN 0003 (ISS tasks), except that it is on a firm-fixed price basis. It appears that these are not performed through individual Job Orders (as in CLIN 0003); however, no description is provided of how these are requested:

- What are the Center’s criteria for assigning an activity to CLIN 3 or 4?
- Why are these tasks on a FFP basis versus CPAF?
- Please provide a labor estimate (or history) for these tasks

ANSWER: There are no specific criteria for determining in advance whether a particular effort will be accomplished through a Job Order under CLIN 0003, or as a discrete Firm Fixed Price Task Order under CLIN 0004. The general principle is that a firm-fixed-price type order should be used when the risk involved is minimal or can be predicted with an acceptable degree of certainty. There is no applicable history for these tasks, and the decision to assign such work to either CLIN 0003 or

to CLIN 0004 under this contract will be made on a case-by-case basis, consistent with the ordering procedures of the contract.

4. Reference: Pg. 5, B.1 SUPPLIES/SERVICES AND PRICES – IDIQ

“It is anticipated (but not guaranteed) that individual Task Orders will be issued at the beginning of each contract year for a full year’s performance of work required under CLIN 0002 and 0003.”

Clarification: It is our assumption that during the Transition Period (2/1/06 to 5/1/06) all charges by the TRIPS contractor will be allocated to CLIN 0001 and that CLINs 0002 and 0003 have no funding associated with them during the Transition period. Is this assumption correct?

ANSWER: Yes.

5. Reference: B.3(b), Payment of Award Fee, and I.9 (b), Distribution of Award Fee
Section B.3 (b) states that “the contractor may bill up to a maximum of 60 percent of this provisional award fee pending final award fee determination.” Section I.9 (b) states that “after payment of 85 percent of the base fee and potential award fee, the Government may withhold further base fee and award fee until a reserve is set aside. This reserve shall not exceed 15 percent of the total base fee and potential award fee or \$100,000, whichever is less.”

Clarification: Please clarify.

ANSWER: The reference in section B.3(b) addresses the ability of the contractor to provisionally bill for Award Fee pending the final award fee determination for each evaluation period. In the absence of language like this for provisional billing, the contractor would not be able to bill for award fee at all until the evaluation period had ended and the final award fee for that period had been determined. By contrast, the reference in section I.9(b) is to withholding of a certain percentage of fee after 85 percent of total base fee and award fee have already been paid under the whole contract.

SECTION C

1. Reference: Section C.2 (Transition) states that the contractor shall have a project management system for managing the various projects, that addresses the scope, cost, schedule and deliverables of each job order.

Question: Is the contractor expected to provide its own project management system, or is it expected to utilize the Volpe Center’s project management system?

ANSWER: The contractor is expected to maintain and operate its own project management system which must be compatible with the corresponding Government systems (see RFP section C.3.A.2). This solicitation does not establish any

requirement that the contractor use any particular type of project management system.

2. Reference: Pg. 11, C.3.A.3 PROJECT STAFFING
DELIVERABLES:
CONTRACT PROFILE REPORT

Within 10 days of the exercise of CLINs 0002 and 0003, the contractor shall submit electronically a contract profile to the CO and COTR, ...”

Question: Do you anticipate that the contractor for TRIPS will assume responsibility for any Task Orders during the Transition Period or will the responsibility be assumed for all active Task Orders on or about May 1, 2006?

ANSWER: The TRIPS contractor will only assume responsibility for new Task Orders issued under its own contract, presumably at the completion of Contract Transition.

Question: We assume that CLINs 0002 and 0003 will not be exercised until after the end of the Transition Period, which will be on or about May 1, 2006. Is this a correct assumption?

ANSWER: Yes.

SECTION H

1. Reference: RFP Section H.8 - DOT Information Security Requirements. The Contractor will be required to comply with DOT Order 1630.2B, Personnel Security Management. Can you please forward a copy of this form to the vendors for review, or advise where such a form can be obtained.

ANSWER: DOT Order 1630.2B, Personnel Security Management can be found at the following website address: <http://isddc.dot.gov/OLPFiles/OST/010379.pdf>.

SECTION L

1. Reference: Section L, Paragraph L.5.B.1.a, Page 73, and Section L. Paragraph L.5.B.3.b, Page 87. Paragraph L.5.B.1.a states that "Each response to a hypothetical task must identify the principal author. This author must be part of the key personnel proposed for CLINs 0002 or 0003." Paragraph L.5.B.3.b states that "the oral presentation must be made by the proposed Program manager, individuals identified as key personnel, and principal authors of responses to hypothetical tasks."

Clarification: Paragraph L.5.B.3.b appears to recognize that the principal authors of responses to the hypothetical tasks may not be proposed as key personnel. Please confirm that this is the correct interpretation of the government's intention, and that the requirement in L.5.B.1.a does not take precedence.

ANSWER: The solicitation will be amended to state, in paragraph L.5.B.3.b, that “The Offeror’s (oral) presentation must be made by the proposed Program Manager and other individuals identified as key personnel, including the principal authors of responses to hypothetical tasks.”

2. Reference: Section C, Paragraph C.4.C.4, Page 23, and Section L. Paragraph L.6.C.1.j, Page 90. Paragraph C.4.C.4 in the SOW specifies a requirement for 24x7 support. Paragraph L.6.C.1.j contains the Government Estimated Labor Rates.

Question: Do the Government Estimated Labor rates include or exclude any shift differential that may be required to provide the 24x7 support specified in the SOW?

ANSWER: The Government Estimated Labor rates are straight-time rates, with no shift differential or overtime premium included.

3. Reference: Section F, Paragraph F.2, Page 38, and Section L. Paragraph L.5.B.1.c, Page 79. Paragraph F.2 states that the transition shall be for a period of up to 90 calendar days (emphasis added), whereas Paragraph L.5.B.1.c states that the draft transition plan is to be based on a 90-calendar-day transition period.

Clarification: a. Is the 90 calendar day period for transition mandatory, or may offerors propose a shorter transition period? b. Additionally, Section L.6.C.1.b states that Transition is “February 1, 2006 through April 30, 2006”, a period of 87 actual calendar days. Please clarify in light of the response to item “a” above.

ANSWER: The solicitation will be amended to state, in paragraph L.5.B.1.c, that “The Offeror shall submit a draft transition plan, based on a transition period from February 1, 2006 through April 30, 2006, which describes its approach to transition covering the topics listed below: . . .”

4. Reference: Section L, Paragraph L.4.G, Page 70. The instructions for the Cost/Business Proposal in Paragraph L.4.G call for a “contract cost control plan” that is not further elaborated in Section L.6 of the RFP.

Clarification: Please provide additional information regarding the desired content of this plan and the location within Proposal Volume III where it is to be placed.

ANSWER: Paragraph L.4.G of the solicitation will be revised to delete the requirement for submission of a contract cost control plan.

5. Reference: L.4.G, page 69, 2nd and 3rd bullets; L.5.B.1.b, page 78. Section L.4.G, second and third bullets, page 69, and L.5.B.1.b, page 78, require an approach for providing the services specified by Section C.3.A., Contract Management, but no approach narrative is outlined for the services to be provided by Section C.3.B, Contract

Administration. The approach to contract administration is, however, referenced in Evaluation Factor M.2.B.

Clarification: Are there any words missing between “narrative description of the” and “performance criteria”? Also, is our assumption correct that Section C of our proposal response should also include our approach to contract administration (C.3.B)? Please clarify.

ANSWER: Necessary words are missing in this section of the solicitation. Paragraph L.4.G referring to Volume I, Section C will be revised to read: “Section C of this volume must contain the organizational chart and description, matrix, and resumes for the proposed staff for Contract Administration, CLIN 0002, as well as a narrative description of the approach to Contract Administration, and performance criteria and measures related to Contract Administration, CLIN 0002.”

6. Reference: Section L.4.G., page 69; Section L.5.A.2, page 71; Section L.5.B.1., page 78. In Section L.5.A.2., the RFP states that Section B addresses Contract Management, and that “[t]he narrative description of the items requested in Section L.5.B.1.b. below is limited to ten pages.” In addition, Section C addresses Contract Administration, and the instructions state that “[t]he narrative description of items requested below in Section L.5.B.1.b. is limited to ten pages.” In reviewing the “items” addressed in Section L.5.B.1.b, however, it would appear that the information requested in bullets one through five are to be included in the ten pages in Section B, while the 10-page narrative of Section C is to address only two bullets (item 6 and 7).

Clarification: Is this correct? If so, it would seem that the page limitations are not proportional to the narrative required. Please clarify.

ANSWER: See the correction made to Paragraph L.4.G immediately preceding this question. This correction makes the page limitations proportional.

7. Reference: Section L.5.B.1.e. and L.5.B.1.f, page 83. The RFP states that “there will be some turnover of staff at the commencement of the new contract, even if the incumbent contractor is the Awardee, and that the successful Offeror will need to provide additional staff in order to fully perform all required tasks beginning on day one of the new contract. Accordingly, the Offeror shall provide the resumes described below. . .”

Question: Based on this requirement, this Offeror understands that all Offerors – including the incumbent contractor – are required to submit a minimum of 22 resumes from non-incumbent personnel. Is this correct? Please clarify.

ANSWER: The solicitation does require submission of exactly 22 resumes for staff proposed for CLIN 0003. The solicitation does not establish any requirement as to whether these resumes are for incumbent or non-incumbent personnel.

8. Reference: Section L.5.B.1.d., pages 79-80. The RFP requires a list of contracts “for similar products or services that it is currently performing or has completed within the past three years.” This list is to include the information required in items 1 through 11 in that section. In addition, we are to select the most relevant contracts which demonstrate our ability “to perform the proposed effort.” It appears that the Government is requiring identical information in both areas, other than providing “information on problems encountered on the identified contracts and the Offeror’s corrective actions” for the five most relevant references.

Question: What level of detail is required in the contract list versus the detailed narrative that should be included for the five cited contracts? Please clarify.

ANSWER: There is no difference in the level of detail to be provided between the initial list of contracts and the Offeror’s identification of those contracts (not to exceed five) which it considers most relevant, except for the possible identification of any problems encounter and the Offeror’s corrective actions on those problems. The purpose of separating these contracts which the Offeror considers most relevant from the list of all contracts is to clearly identify those for which performance evaluation reports should be submitted.

9. Reference: Section L.4.G, page 69; L.5.B.1.b, page 78. In Section L.4.G, the structure of the Management Approach of Section B requires that the organizational chart and description, matrix, and resumes be provided prior to the narrative discussion regarding the offeror’s “approach to project management, technical leadership, staffing fluctuations, and performance criteria and measures.” Yet Section L.5.B.1.b. outlines a different structure, in which the 10-page narrative description would precede the organizational chart, matrix, and resumes.

Question: Please clarify which structure the Government requires offerors to follow.

ANSWER: The solicitation does not require any particular order for the submission of the necessary information within the applicable section of Volume I.

10. Reference: L.6.C, 1., j., Government-Estimated Labor Rates. The labor rate provided for the Administrative Specialist indicates that it is based on the wage determination provided as Attachment J.7 to the RFP.

Clarification: However, the attached wage determination does not appear to include an Occupation Title with an associated minimum wage rate of \$16.50. Please clarify.

ANSWER: The Administrative Specialist category is equivalent to the category of General Clerk IV (01118) as described in the Department of Labor Service Contract Act Directory of Occupations. The applicable Government-estimated labor rate for this category includes escalation from the rate shown in the Wage Determination, solicitation attachment J.7.

11. Reference: L.5.B., PROPOSAL CONTENT, Paragraph 1, VOLUME I WRITTEN MATERIAL, subparagraph e., STAFFING

Question: Due to the length of time between RFP submittal and contract award would the government consider reducing the required number of resumes to project managers and subject matter experts for CLIN 0003?

ANSWER: No.

12. Reference: Section L.6.C, Part II, 1.a, states that "Subcontractors with estimated costs in excess of \$500,000 must follow the same proposal preparation instructions and complete the same schedules as the prime contractor..."

Question: Please confirm that \$500,000. is an annual threshold.

ANSWER: The \$500,000. threshold is for the total value of a subcontract, not an annual amount.

13. Question: Could you please provide Appendix A referenced in Section L.6.C.1.t on page 94.

ANSWER: This reference can be found at the following website address:
<http://www.dot.gov/ost/m60/earl/chap1215.htm#appen15a>

14. Reference: Section L.6.C.2 - Cost/Business Proposal Instructions - Schedules. Several schedules are set forth in this section (pgs. 95 - 109) however, given that the RFP is in a .pdf format, the schedules can not be completed and used for submission. Are the schedules available in a format that the vendors can complete such as an MS Excel file?

ANSWER: No.

SECTION J

1. Reference: Section J, Attachment J.9 (DD Form 254), Pages 164-165.

There appears to be a contradiction between the specifications in Blocks 1a and 1b, which specify the contractor's facility clearance and storage of classified material at a contractor site, versus the specifications in Blocks 11b, 11c, and 11d, which indicate that the contractor will not receive, generate, fabricate, modify, or store classified documents, material, or hardware.

Clarification: Please clarify the specifications in the DD Form 254 with respect to the contractor's facility.

ANSWER: Block 1.b of the DD Form 254, solicitation attachment J.9, will be revised to read "None" in lieu of "Secret".

SECTION M

1. Reference: Section M, Paragraph M.1.C, Page 111. This paragraph states that each proposal will be assessed as to the level of risk it represents in terms of its probable accomplishment of schedule, cost, and performance objectives.

Clarification: Please clarify how risk will be assessed and scored. Will there be an overall risk assessment, or will risk be assessed as a component of each evaluation factor and subfactor?

ANSWER: An overall risk assessment will be made for each proposal, in which the risk of probable accomplishment of contract schedule, cost and performance objectives will be designated as high, moderate or low risk.

GENERAL QUESTIONS:

1. Can the Government provide more information about the technical architecture of the UAS system?

ANSWER: UAS is made up of a 1032 database with a COBAL interface.

2. How are the R-Y-G reports being compiled at Volpe presently?

ANSWER: These reports are deliverables under the current contract, DTRS57-00-C-10045 with Computer Sciences Corporation. The details of the format for these reports are provided in Attachment J.6 to that contract. As to the methodology used by the contractor to compile these reports, that information is not required to be identified by the contract.

3. Are there any restrictions between OMNI contractors and TRIPS contractor? Can the prime on the TRIPS contract also be a prime on an OMNI, or vice versa? Is there any conflict of interest here?

ANSWER: This solicitation does not establish any restrictions relative to organizations which hold contracts under the Volpe Center's Multiple Resource Contractor Base known as "OMNI" contracts. However, if those contracts include such restrictions in their own right, such restrictions may limit those organizations from being awarded a contract resulting from this solicitation. Also, offerors are reminded that they must disclose any such restrictions as part of their proposal for this effort (see provision 1252.209-70, Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest on page 66 of the solicitation)

4. How does the Center handle situations that might result in potential (or perceived) conflicts of interest between its TRIPS contractor and the Volpe sponsor? For instance, the Contractor may also be a manufacturer and/or marketer of hardware or software, and yet the TRIPS role calls for the contractor to evaluate alternative technologies? Or the contractor may wish to compete on potential work for a sponsor, where the scope of the

TRIPS task order calls for the contractor to participate in preliminary scope-setting or acquisition-planning activities

ANSWER: While it is not anticipated as of now, should such situations arise during the process of developing Task Orders and Job Orders under the contract, appropriate controls will be established for those orders involved.

5. What percentage of the TRIPS personnel are based in Cambridge, and what percentages in other locations, such as Washington, Oklahoma City or Atlantic City?

ANSWER: The vast majority of contractor personnel performing under the TRIPS contract will be located in Cambridge, Massachusetts. However, no specific percentages are available in this regard.

6. We would like to visit the facility and especially tour the data center. How and when can we arrange to do this?

ANSWER: The issue of Government-provided facilities in connection with this acquisition is being addressed during the Preproposal Conference. However, no visits to specific Volpe Center facilities will be conducted as part of this conference.

7. To what degree does Volpe anticipate materially changing the scope of ongoing tasks? A percentage of the tasks would be a useful metric.

ANSWER: While there is always the possibility of changes being required in work ordered under the TRIPS contract, there is no basis to project the extent of such potential changes.

8. At what date could the successful contractor anticipate receiving all of the RFPs for the ongoing tasks and at what rate would they be released?

ANSWER: The successful contractor could anticipate being notified of the initial order(s) to be placed for full performance under the TRIPS contract approximately two weeks to one month before placement of such order(s).

9. It appears that the Government will not perform a probable cost analysis on CLIN 0001, Transition. How will transition costs be evaluated since the incumbent will not have any transition costs and all other offerors will be required to bid cost associated with transition?

ANSWER: Since CLIN 0001, Contract Transition is identified as a Firm-Fixed-Price item, any price proposed by an offeror for this item will be included as submitted as part of the overall evaluated price for that particular offeror.

10. There is a NASA FAR Supplement clause that the Volpe CO should consider adding to RFP Section L.1.I. that would make accountability for on-site property much simpler for the Contracting Officer, the Volpe Property Officer, and the contractor. The NASA clause is 1852.245-71 entitled "Installation Provided Government Property" and can be found at this address:

<http://farsite.hill.af.mil/archive/Nasa/89.92/5245.htm>

Many NASA and military installations treat property that is furnished by the government for use within its facility as "IPGP" so that while contractors may be responsible for reporting equipment location, usage, etc., accountability for DCMAO auditing of the property remains with the agency. It recognizes that a contractor can't be held accountable for property unless he has physical control over the facilities, something that is true really only in GOCO facilities. I strongly encourage the Volpe Contracting Office to add this clause to RFP Section L.1.I. and to consider all property located within the Center and used by the Contractor as "IPGP". In doing so, Volpe would still retain clause 52-245-1 to hold the contractor accountable for GFP under its control outside the Center, but clarify that while property is within the Volpe center, it is accountable to the Volpe Property Office while still being reportable by the contractor.

ANSWER: While this approach may be of interest to the Volpe Center for the TRIPS acquisition, it will not be implemented as part of this solicitation at this time.

11. Reference: Various - CLIN 004 Submission Instructions. Please provide additional details regarding the requirements for the CLIN 004 submission response in Technical and Cost/Business volumes.

ANSWER: There are no separate proposal submission requirements for CLIN 0004.

12. Reference: Various - CLIN 004 Submission Instructions. Please clarify the directions regarding CLIN 002 - specifically, how should vendors address the full breadth of contract management and administration, i.e., explain if CLIN 002 is intended for complete data center and IT staff management or for specific areas of management.

ANSWER: It is assumed this topic is meant to read "CLIN 002 Submission Instructions". While the question itself is not completely clear, it is the Government's position that the guidance for proposal submission in this regard is sufficiently specific and detailed.